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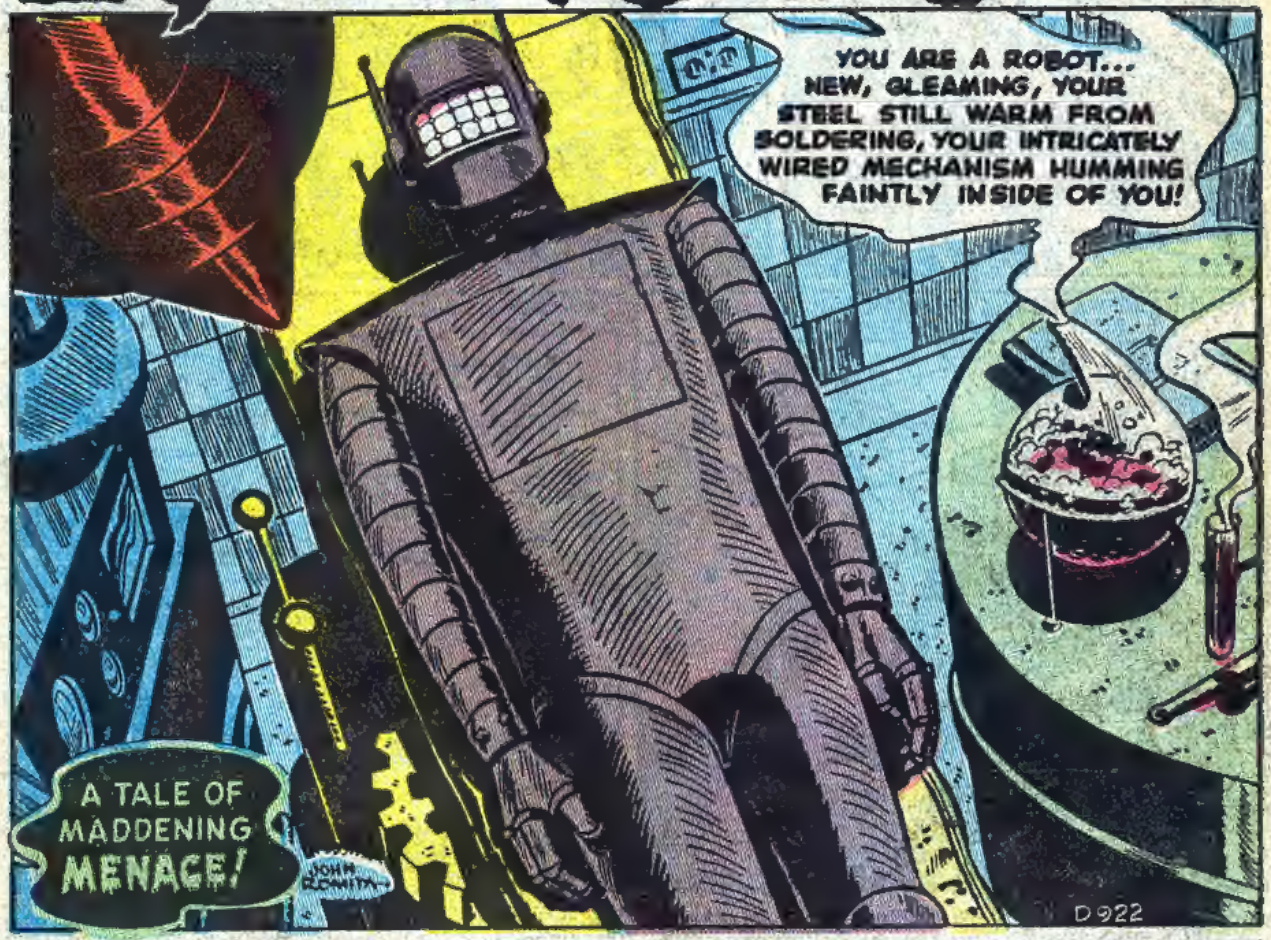
PUT ON YOUR SPECS, KIDDIES, AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON OUR FIRST WEIRDIE! WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY MECHANICAL MEN... ROBOTS TO YOU! SO WE'RE STARTING OFF WITH A TALE WE GUARANTEE WILL KEEP YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT!

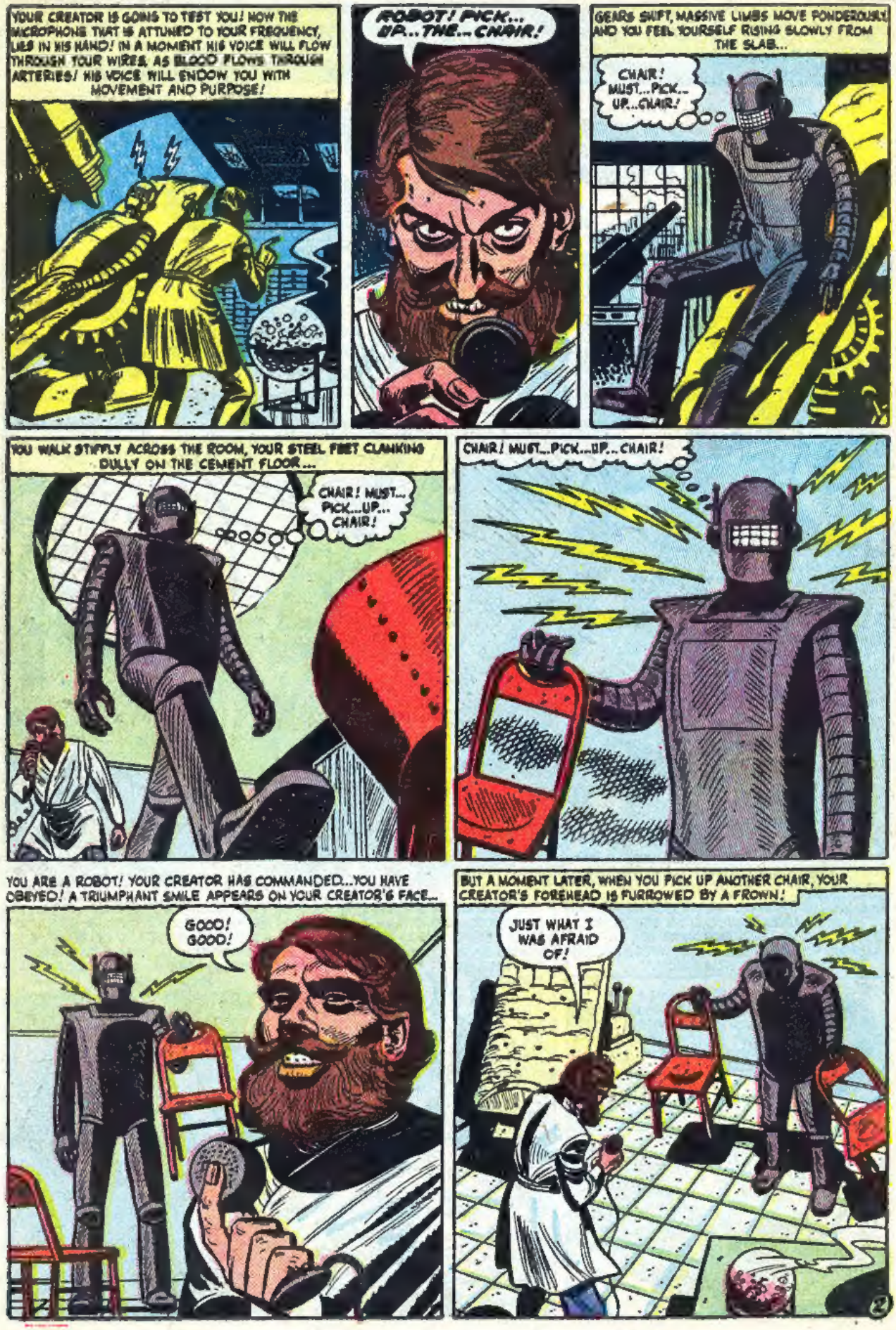
I, THE ROBOT


YOU ARE A ROBOT... NEW, GLEAMING, YOUR STEEL STILL WARM FROM SOLDERING, YOUR INTRICATELY WIRED MECHANISM HUMMING FAINTLY INSIDE OF YOU!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
JOHN BROOME
D922

THE MAN WITH THE BEARD IS YOUR CREATOR! THE HUM OF HIS VOICE MAKES YOUR SENSITIVE AUDIOPHONES VIBRATE! BUT NO GEARS SHIFT INSIDE YOU, YOU RESPOND TO AUDIOIMPULSES ONLY WHEN ADDRESSED ON A SECRET FREQUENCY!
HE'S NOT FINISHED, I TELL YOU! CREATING A ROBOT WHICH OBEYS ORDERS ISN'T EASY! THE ROBOT HAS TO BE TAUGHT HOW TO OBEY!

I'M YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER, PROFESSOR... YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO ME! THEY'LL GIVE US FIVE MILLION BUCKS IF YOU RELEASE IT BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH!
I'M NOT RELEASING ANY DATA TILL MY ROBOT IS PERFECT! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE... I HAVE TO CONDUCT ANOTHER TEST!

NOW YOUR CREATOR IS STANDING OVER YOU... YOU REMAIN MOTIONLESS ON YOUR SLAB! YOU ARE A ROBOT, FASHIONED INTO THE SHAPE OF A MAN, BUT WITHOUT WILL, POWERLESS TO MOVE UNLESS COMMANDED ON YOUR SECRET FREQUENCY!


YOUR CREATOR IS GOING TO TEST YOU! NOW THE MICROPHONE THAT IS ATTUNED TO YOUR FREQUENCY, LIES IN HIS HAND! IN A MOMENT HIS VOICE WILL FLOW THROUGH YOUR WIRES, AS BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH ARTERIES! HIS VOICE WILL ENDOW YOU WITH MOVEMENT AND PURPOSE!
ROBOT! PICK... UP... THE... CHAIR!
GEARS SHIFT, MASSIVE LIMBS MOVE PONDEROUSLY AND YOU FEEL YOURSELF RISING SLOWLY FROM THE SLAB...
CHAIR! MUST... PICK... UP... CHAIR!
YOU WALK STIFFLY ACROSS THE ROOM, YOUR STEEL FEET CLANKING DULLY ON THE CEMENT FLOOR...
CHAIR! MUST... PICK... UP... CHAIR!
CHAIR! MUST... PICK... UP... CHAIR!
YOU ARE A ROBOT! YOUR CREATOR HAS COMMANDED... YOU HAVE OBEYED! A TRIUMPHANT SMILE APPEARS ON YOUR CREATOR'S FACE...
GOOD! GOOD!
BUT A MOMENT LATER, WHEN YOU PICK UP ANOTHER CHAIR, YOUR CREATOR'S FOREHEAD IS FURROWED BY A FROWN!
JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!
2

AND WHEN YOU PICK UP THE THIRD CHAIR, HE BURIES HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS! WHAT CAN HE EXPECT? YOU ARE STILL AN IMPERFECT ROBOT! YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW HOW TO OBEY COMMANDS! YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REQUIRES A SPECIAL REGULATOR TO MAKE YOU STOP, ONCE YOU HAVE STARTED!
TIREDLY, YOUR CREATOR SPEAKS INTO THE MICRO-PHONE AGAIN...
ROBOT! RETURN... TO...YOUR...SLAB!
THEN HE CLICKS THE LIGHT OFF AND WALKS TO THE DOOR! HE SHAKES HIS HEAD PUZZLEDLY! THE DOOR SLAMS...AND YOU ARE ALONE, MOTIONLESS, ON THE SLAB!
SUDDENLY, YOU HEAR A WINDOW CREAKING UPWARD...
A MAN CLIMBS STEALTHILY THROUGH THE WINDOW...
NOW HE IS BENDING OVER YOU, HIS FINGERS PRYING ROUGHLY AT THE CONTROL BOX IN YOUR CHEST!
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS DEAL TOO LONG TO LET THAT CRAZY PROFESSOR LOUSE IT UP FOR ME! THERE AIN'T ANYTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR FIVE MILLION BUCKS!
HERE'S THE FREQUENCY SETTING! I CAN FEEL THAT FIVE MILLION BUCKS CRACKLING IN MY HAND RIGHT NOW...AND THE PROFESSOR'S NOT GONNA BE AROUND TO GET A SHARE!
3

CHUCKLING CRUELLY, THE MAN CLOSES YOUR CONTROL BOX! THEN HE PICKS UP A SPARE MICROPHONE, AND CLIMBS OUT THE WINDOW AS STEALTHILY AS HE CAME IN!

IT IS MORNING! ALL NIGHT YOU LAY MOTIONLESS ON YOUR SLAB, AND YOU DO NOT MOVE WHEN THE DOOR OPENS SLOWLY...

AND NOW YOUR CREATOR IS STANDING OVER YOU AGAIN! A MEANINGLESS MURMUR MAKES YOUR AUDIOPHONES VIBRATE AS HE ADDRESSES YOU FONDLY...

SEE THIS, ROBOT? IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR *REGULATOR!* AS SOON AS I INSTALL IT, YOU'LL BE *PERFECT!*

INSIDE YOU, THE WIRES ARE HUMMING LOUDER, AND A THOUSAND TINY SPRINGS ARE TENSING FOR ACTION! THE VOICE OF THE MAN WHO PRIED YOU OPEN LAST NIGHT IS BOOMING INSIDE YOUR ELECTRONIC BRAIN...

AND THE BOOMING VOICE IS ON YOUR FREQUENCY!

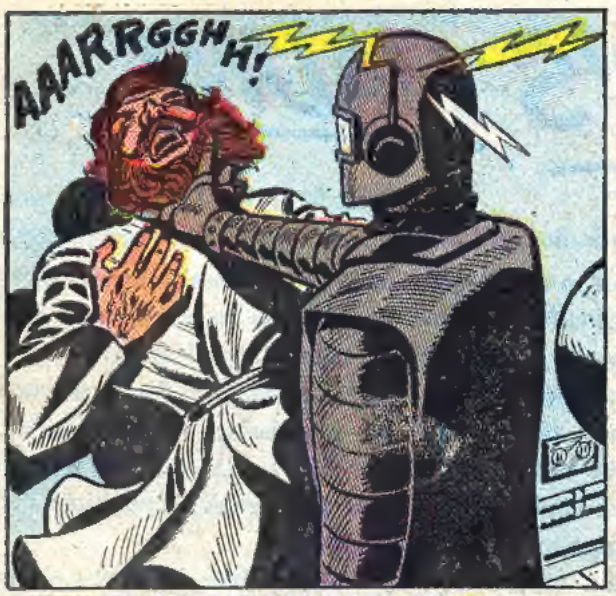
ROBOT! KILL... THE... MAN... IN... THE... ROOM!

YOU ARE A ROBOT... YOU MUST OBEY!

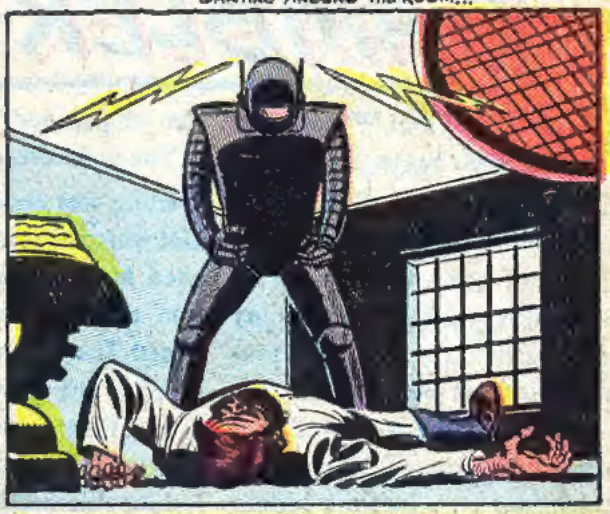
WHAT THE... *NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!*

YOUR CREATOR CRINGES WITH HORROR! HE THROWS HIS HANDS UP IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO WARD YOU OFF! BUT YOU KEEP MOVING FORWARD...

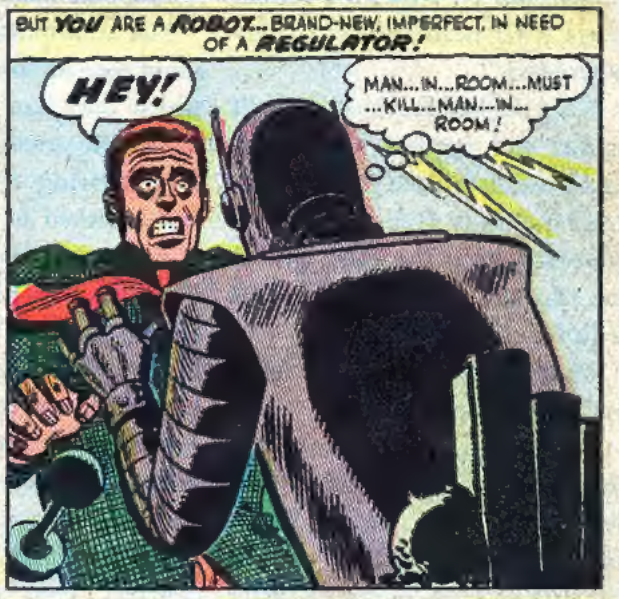
MAN... IN... ROOM... MUST... KILL... MAN... IN... ROOM!

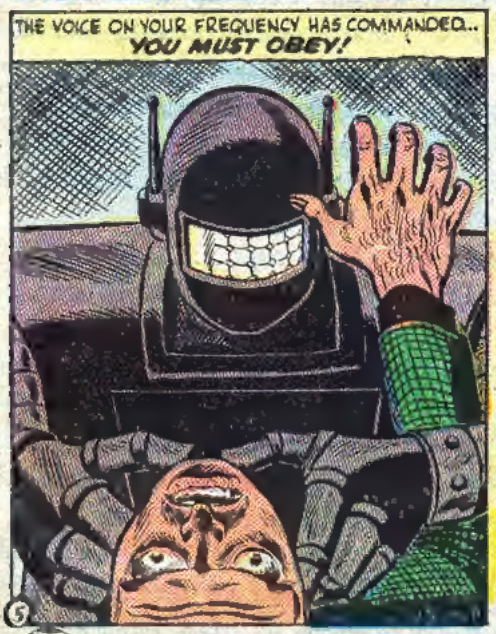


YOU STAND SWAYING OVER THE CRUMPLED BODY OF YOUR CREATOR! THE WIRES INSIDE OF YOU ARE STILL HUMMING SHRILLY! YOUR STEEL HANDS ARE STILL CURVED AND TAUT! YOUR ELECTRIC EYES KEEP DARTING AROUND THE ROOM...



THE DOOR OPENS! ANOTHER MAN IN THE ROOM...
IT WORKED! THE PROFESSORS DEAD...NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS MARCH THIS HUNK OF TIN DOWN TO THE SUCKERS WHO WANNA PAY FIVE MILLION BUCKS FOR IT!





YOUR STEEL FEET MAKE HOLLOW, CLANKING SOUNDS THAT ECHO RASPINGLY IN THE NARROW CORRIDOR! YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY! YOU WILL KILL MEN IN ROOMS WHEREEVER YOU FIND THEM! YOU ARE A ROBOT! YOU MUST OBEY!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

GAMBLER'S HAUNT

MARGE and Hal Warner carried their luggage from the station and walked through the busy section of the teeming city until they came to a group of dark, dreary streets. Seemingly happy with their find, they proceeded to look even futher.

"That's the one we want," Hal pointed, "it's out of the way, not pretentious . . . just the hiding place we'll need in case of any emergency."

They walked into the dimly-lit lobby, and spotted a wrinkled and bent desk clerk snoozing behind the dusty desk. As they approached him, the clerk got to his feet and straightened his tie a little.

Marge spoke. "We want a room with bath. Got one?"

The old man pushed a register across the counter and said, "One left; third floor, front. Three bucks. Here's your key." But at the sight of a ten-dollar-bill being pressed into his own hand by red-tipped fingers, he took the register away and yawned noisily.

They stepped into the room. It was dark, the furniture was ancient and dusty, the bathroom with only a skylight that, when they opened it, let in soot and smoke, but no light.

"Queer place you picked, Hal!" Marge said. "And did you get a load of that crowd in the lobby. Something about those people . . . sorta GHOSTLY . . . like ghouls! I guess it's just the general atmosphere of this hole. Well, let's get dressed and get out of this place like we planned."

The satin dress indicated a big evening was about to take place. Hal whistled at his wife, straightened his monkey suit, took her arm and led her out onto the street. They found a taxicab and directed the driver to take them to the Fifty Seven Club, an elegant gambling house in the more fashionable section of the city.

The atmosphere was so different in comparison to the one from which they had just come, and the couple stood for a minute before entering the glittery club, and breathed in the noisy, sparkling surroundings.

As they walked in, they immediately spotted the one they were looking for. They didn't know his name, but it didn't seem to matter. They saw him tipsying from table to table, getting in on one wheel and then another, throwing his money around like confetti. They noticed another thing that pleased them.

"Look how the others are ignoring the guy, Marge," Hal said, poking her. "They act as if they don't know he's around. He must be some bum that grabbed a haul of money from some sucker and is having himself a time. Let's find out how much more he's got."

They cornered the drunk and led him outside into an alley, after having a drink with him. He boastfully took out a roll of bills that made Marge gasp, and before he could scream, Hal had him on the ground, pummeling him until the drunk's breaths came hard and few. Marge took his wallet and thumbed through it. Besides several hundred more dollars, she found a small card that read "Nick Harris."

"A nobody, no doubt, the way he was being treated inside," she said. It was then she noticed that the drunk's breathing had stopped.

"I killed him, Marge! I musta hit him too hard. L-let's get outta here, quick!" Hal gasped. "This Harris guy's DEAD!"

When they got back to the hotel, they didn't bother to glance at the strange people who walked through the lobby now, for they only knew they had to hide out in that room, until the incident was forgotten.

"It won't take long," Marge assured her husband. "The police'll figure he was so drunk he stumbled and killed himself in a bad fall. You'll see!"

But once up in the room, Marge peered carefully from behind a drawn shade. She saw that the street was empty. And then, suddenly, a car slowly went past the quiet hotel, as if it were searching.

"The cops . . . ALREADY!" Hal screamed. They waited . . . no one came.

"Someone must have given them our description," Marge said nervously, continuing her search from behind the blind. "It's gone now! Relax."

"You IDIOT!" Hal shouted. "Can't you see they're going to keep us up here, let us sweat it

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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HOW ABOUT A DELIGHTFUL TRIP TO **MARS**? SPACE HELMETS IN PLACE... SPACE SHIP ALL FUELED UP? GOOD! LET'S ZOOM OFF INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER WITH **MR. JORDAN**... AND WE **DO** MEAN **WILD**! MAN, IT'S POSITIVELY **CRAZY** WHAT CAN HAPPEN ON **MARS**!

A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH

TWILIGHT HAS FALLEN! THE THIN, COLD AIR SEEMS DISTILLED OF ALL SOUND AND MOTION! THEN IT HAPPENS! YOU HEAR SOMETHING SLITHER TOWARD YOU... REACH FOR YOU WITH ITS STEEL STRONG TENTACLES AND CLAWS! YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SAVAGE EMBRACE! YOUR SCREAMS RISE TOWARD THE CANOPY OF MARTIAN NIGHT-SKY!

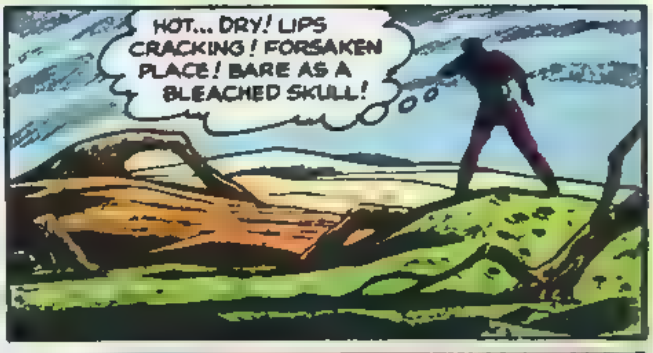
REMEMBER HOW IT ALL BEGAN, MATT JORDAN? THE WASTELANDS OF THE GALACTIC SEAS WHIP PAST YOU, AS YOUR SPACE SHIP BURNS ITS WAY TOWARD THE CANAL-MARKED MYSTERY-LAND OF MARS!

TERROR SUDDENLY JOINS YOU IN THE TINY ROCKET!

BUT...

YOUR EXPERIENCES IN EXPLORING THE VAST REGIONS OF OUTER SPACE HAVE BEEN RIDDLED WITH LUCK! AND THIS TIME, MATT JORDAN, YOU'VE BEEN ENDOWED WITH THE MIRACLE OF SURVIVAL!

THE NIGHT ON MARS BRINGS THE TERROR OF ARCTIC TEMPERATURES! HARD TO BELIEVE, NOW AS YOU MOVE WEARILY ACROSS THE FACE OF THE BARREN DESERT-LAND... BAKING UNDER MERCILESS *HEAT!*



YOUR INSTINCTS GUIDE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, FOR AT THE END OF A GRUELING MARTIAN DAY, YOU FIND...

HOPE SINKS INSIDE OF YOU AS YOU WALK DEJECTEDLY, AIMLESSLY TOWARD A STRANGE FORMATION OF ROCKS AND BOULDERS! SUDDENLY...

YOU FOLLOW THE TRACT OF DULCET TONES AS IF HYPNOTIZED! A STRANGE MEDIEVAL-LIKE AIR... A SIREN SONG!

RECKLESSLY YOU BOUND OVER THE WALL AND DROP LIGHTLY INTO A ROUGH ARENA! YOUR BLOOD CONGEALS... FREEZES YOU INTO A STATUE-LIKE TRANCE AS YOUR SENSES TRY TO BELIEVE YOUR EYES...

INSTINCTIVELY YOU ADJUST YOURSELF TO REALITY IN A HURRY! THIS PREHISTORIC LOOKING CREATURE IS YOUR ONE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL! AND SO...

IN THE LONG DAYS AND NIGHTS THAT FOLLOW, YOU HIDE YOUR LOATHING FOR THE HIDEOUS LLMR! FRIENDLY, HOSPITABLE LLMR, WHOSE LANGUAGE NOW MAKES SENSE TO YOUR LINGUISTIC-TRAINED EARS...

YOUR PEOPLE MUST HAVE A LOT OF INTERESTING GADGETS! I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THIS EXILE OF YOURS, LLMR! AREN'T YOU ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO CIVILIZATION?
OF COURSE, MATT! BUT IT'S OUR WAYS...

ALL THE MAIDENS ARE BANISHED FOR A YEAR PRECEDING THEIR MATURITY AGE! ON THAT DATE, THEY RETURN...TO MARRY THE MAN OF THEIR CHOICE...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDERWEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

Now at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

GAIN MORE WEIGHT

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10-DAY SUPPLY ONLY $1.

The 4-way MORE-WATE tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! MORE-WATE is a **delicious,** full strength, 4-way tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for **gaining weight** known to medical science. MORE-WATE is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's delicious, **pleasant-tasting tablet!** It contains vitamin **B-12** . . . the **amazing red vitamin doctors** give many **underweight patients** in **hospitals** . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into **well rounded flesh** instead of being wasted. **That's the secret of putting on weight.** Now you can help your food to **add new pounds** to your **arms, chest, hips, thighs,** and **legs.** Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! **You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything.** Act now!

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310 Market Street, Newark, N. J..
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☐ Send me 30 day supply plus an extra 10 day supply (that's a 40 day supply) for $2.98. I understand that if I am not delighted with MORE-WATE tablets and plan, I can return the 30 day supply in 10 days for full purchase price refund, and keep the 10 day supply without charge.

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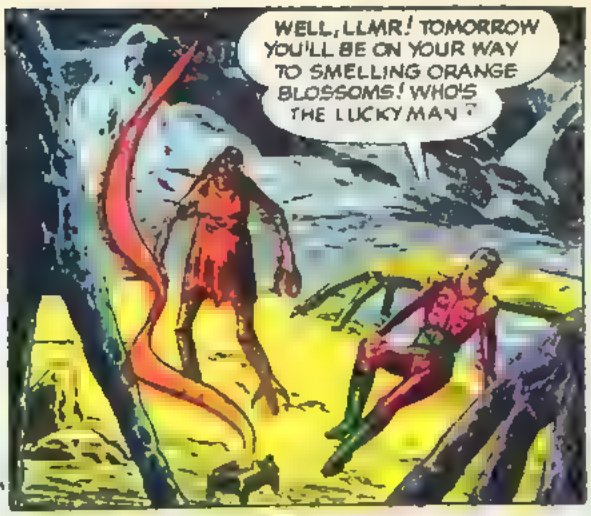
SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

YOU AWAIT LLMR'S MATURITY DATE AS ANXIOUSLY AS SHE! FOR AS THE DAYS PASS, HER LOATHESOME UGLINESS FILLS YOU WITH INCREASING NAUSEA! ONCE SHE GUIDES YOU TO HER CITY, YOU'LL BE RID OF HER FOREVER! AND FINALLY ONE EVENING...



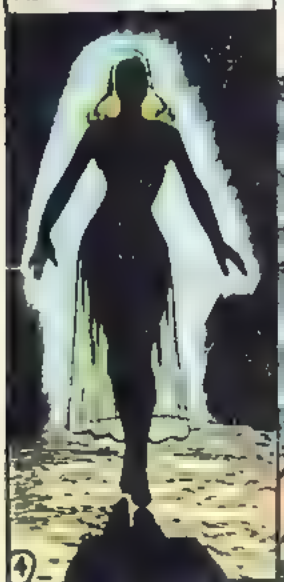
WHY, MATT! HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? THE ONLY MAN I COULD EVER LOVE...IS YOU!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN IT!
BUT I KNOW SHE DOES! THE POISON CAPSULE IN MY POCKET! MY ONLY ALTERNATIVE!

YOU'VE ALWAYS CARRIED THE CAPSULE FOR AN EMERGENCY WHERE DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY OUT! AND WITHOUT HESITATION, YOU SWALLOW IT! BUT DEATH IS SLOW, AGONIZING! ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT...

YOU SUFFER THE TORTURES OF THE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED! BUT, AS DAWN CRACKS INTO DAY YOUR EYES STILL SEE...

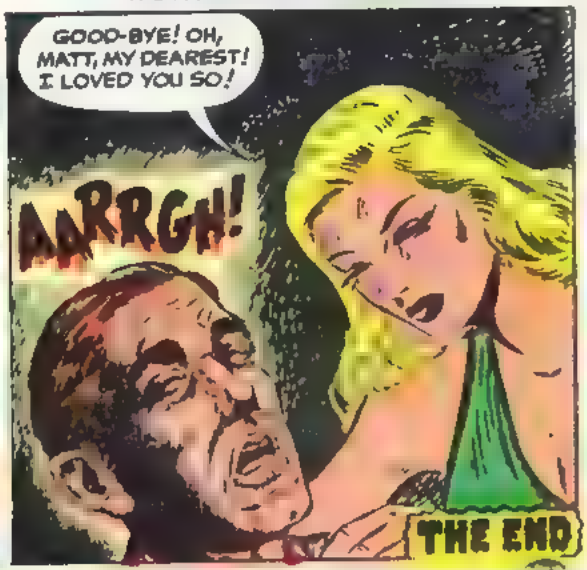
, YOUR MIND STILL RECORDS...

AS LLMR UNDERGOES...



THE SNAKE-LIKE SKIN SHEDDING... THE PHYSICAL CHANGE OF A MARTIAN MAIDEN REACHING MATURITY!

AND FOR ONE BLINDING LAST INSTANT YOU KNOW THE PARADISE YOU MISSED!



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...CONTINUED

out, till we give ourselves up? Can't you SEE IT?"

But Marge was away from the window now. She was picking something up from the floor. It was a matchbook cover, and on it were the initials "N. H". Could they stand for Nick Harris? She flung the matchbook away.

They spent the rest of the night watching at the window, waiting, waiting for that knock on the door that never came. Hal stumbled around the room nervously pacing back and forth, snapping at Marge. He went to a closet for some cigarettes that were in his coat pocket. In the dark, he fumbled through the pocket, but could not find the cigarettes. Instead, a strange object met his touch. It was polished and cold. He pulled it from the pocket and held it to the one dim light they had left burning in the room.

"It's some sort of a good-luck piece, Marge," Hal whispered, a strange fright gripping him. "Look . . . it's got some initials on it! N.H.! OH, NO! MARGE . . . THAT GUY WE KILLED, NICK HARRIS! HE'S A GHOST! He's haunting this room, knowing we can't run out because the cops will be waiting for us to make a break for it. H-he's goin' to drive us batty! W-what's . . . that . . . you've . . . got?"

Marge's eyes were wide. Her face was dead-white even in the dim light of the room. Her hand was shaking uncontrollably, and in it lay a brilliant object that gleamed eerily. Hal could not see it clearly, and he walked slowly toward his horrified wife.

"A ROD! It's a gun, Marge! And there's a gold plate on it . . . WHAT DOES IT SAY? MARGE, TELL ME! TELL ME!" Hal screamed frantically. In his haste, he grabbed it from Marge's trembling hand, and just as the gun fired accidentally, he saw the gold-plated name engraved on the gun . . . NICK HARRIS! And then he saw Marge's body slipping, lifeless, to the floor, the fright and shock etched on her face.

Hal was beyond control now. "THAT HARRIS GUY! HIS GHOST MADE ME KILL HER! AND NOW HE'S GONNA KILL ME!" And as if in a ghostly trance, Hal Warner turned the flashing gun on himself and fired.

The patrol car was cruising the streets as usual, when one of the officers heard the shots. Within five minutes, scores of policemen were going through the deserted hotel that had once been a gambler's rendezvous. They found the bodies, their luggage, but nothing else in the room.

And after it was all cleared away, the officer who had first heard the shots spoke to his companion.

"It's strange those folks should pick a place like that to kill themselves in. That place has been completely *deserted* for 20 years! No one's been in the hotel since then. As a matter of fact, no one's been there since the old-time big gambler, Nick Harris, was shot to death in that very room, just twenty years ago today."

THE END D-925

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

MENACE, published bi-monthly at New York, N.Y., for October 1, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, HERCULES PUBLISHING CORP., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Managing editor, MARTIN GOODMAN, 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Business manager, MONROE FROEHLICH, JR., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

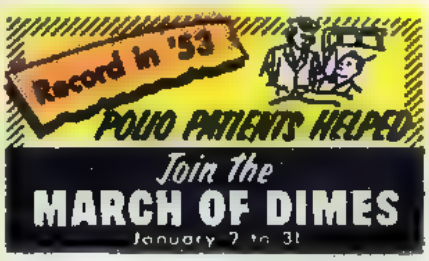
5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) MONROE FROEHLICH, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of September, 1953.

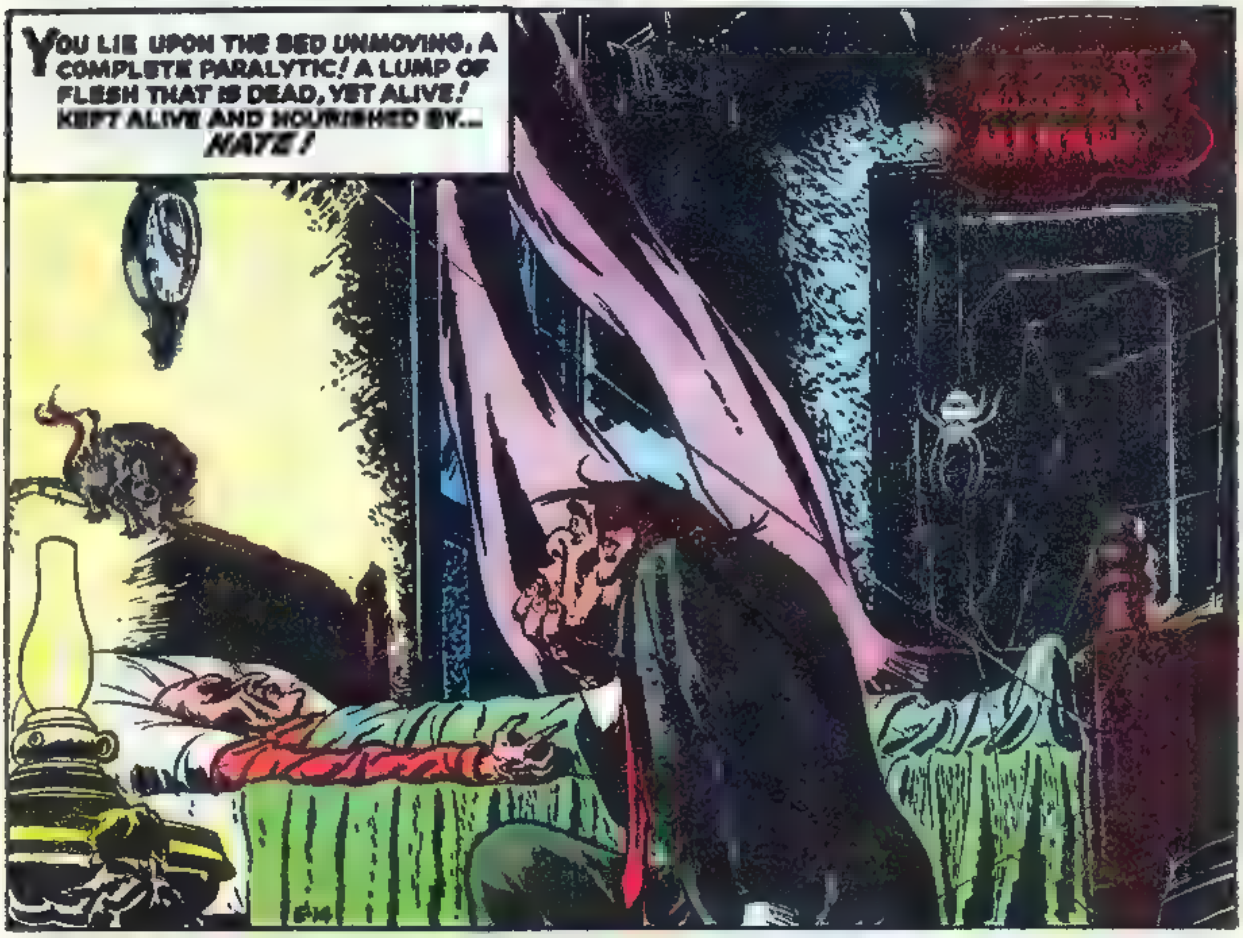
(SEAL) TESS HAIWOOD (GOLDBERG)

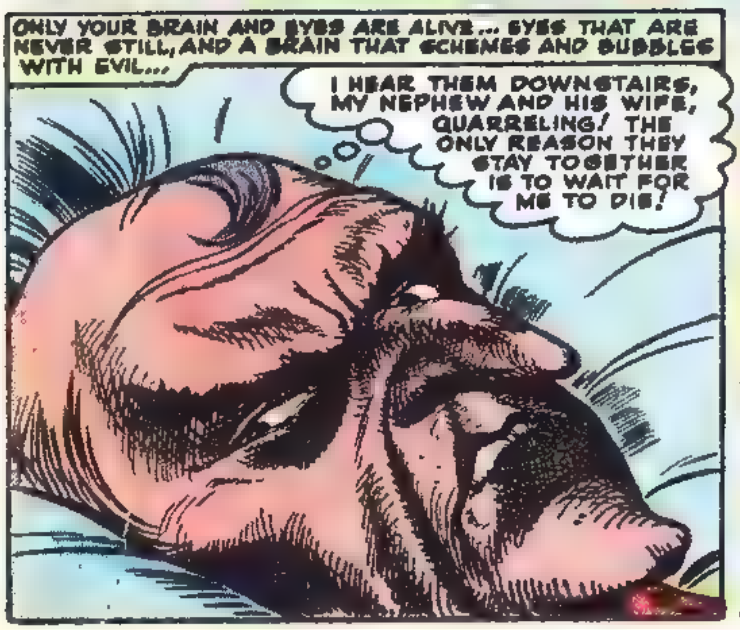
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 03-6797825
Qualified in Bronx County
Certs. filed with Bronx County Reg and New York Co. Clk. & Reg.
Commission Expires March 30, 1954

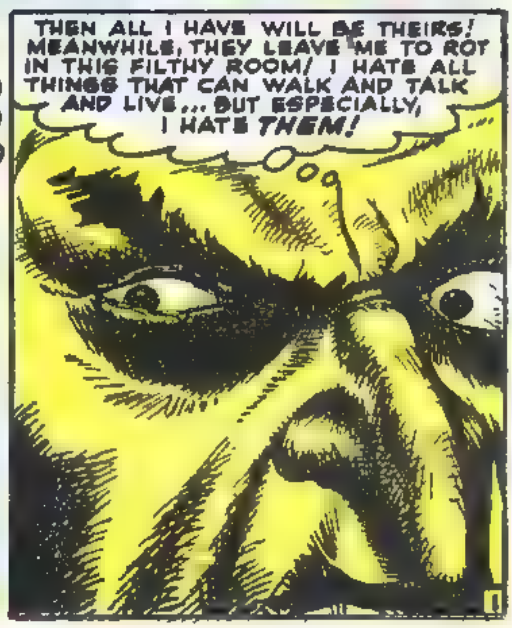


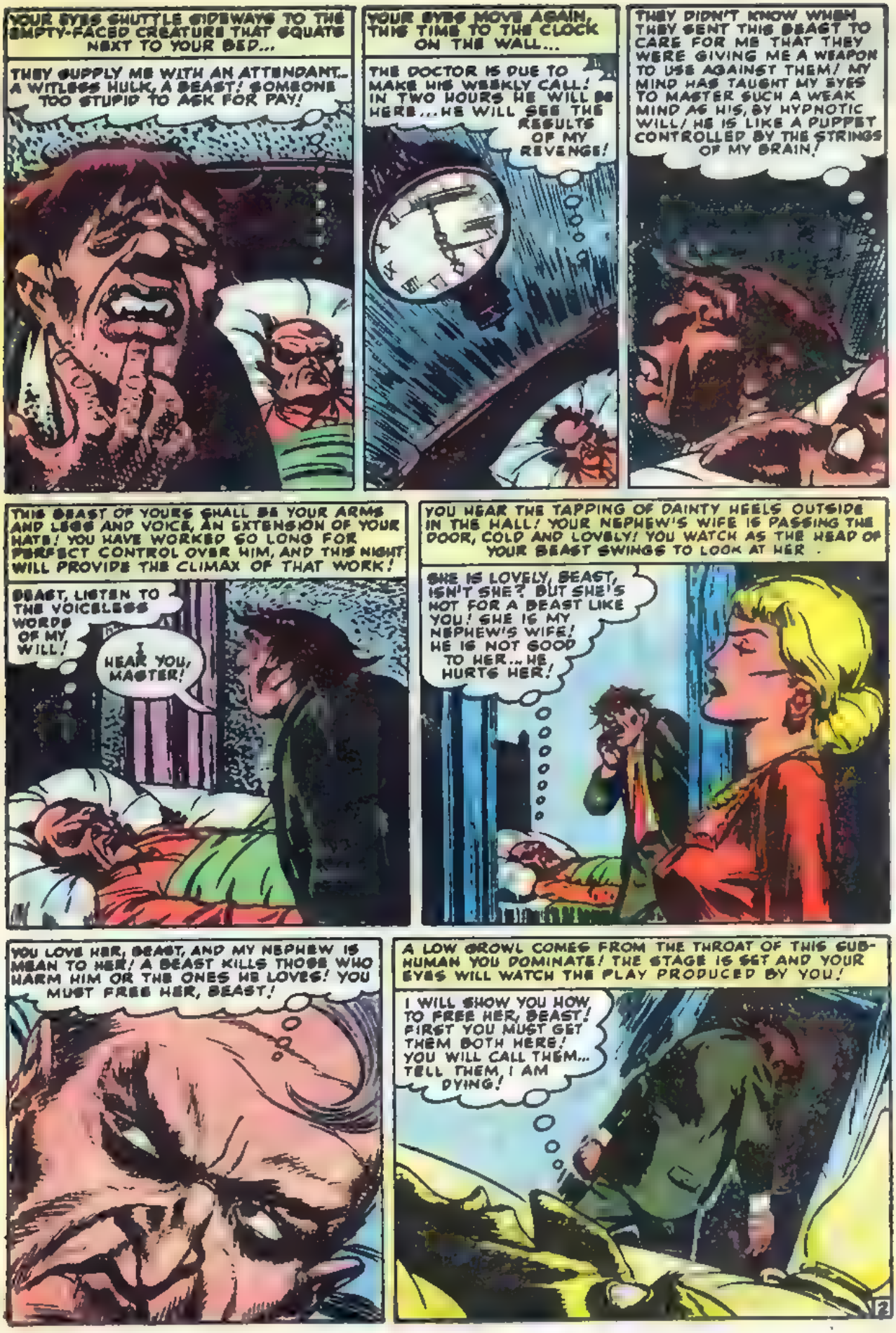
POOR MR. JORDAN! TOO BAD *ME* WAS SO HASTY! STRANGE THINGS ARE BREWING IN THIS DARK ROOM... AND SOMEBODY'S GONNA END UP IN THE STEW! AND ALL BECAUSE THE EVIL OLD MAN THOUGHT HIS PERSONAL SERVANT WAS...

ONLY A BEAST

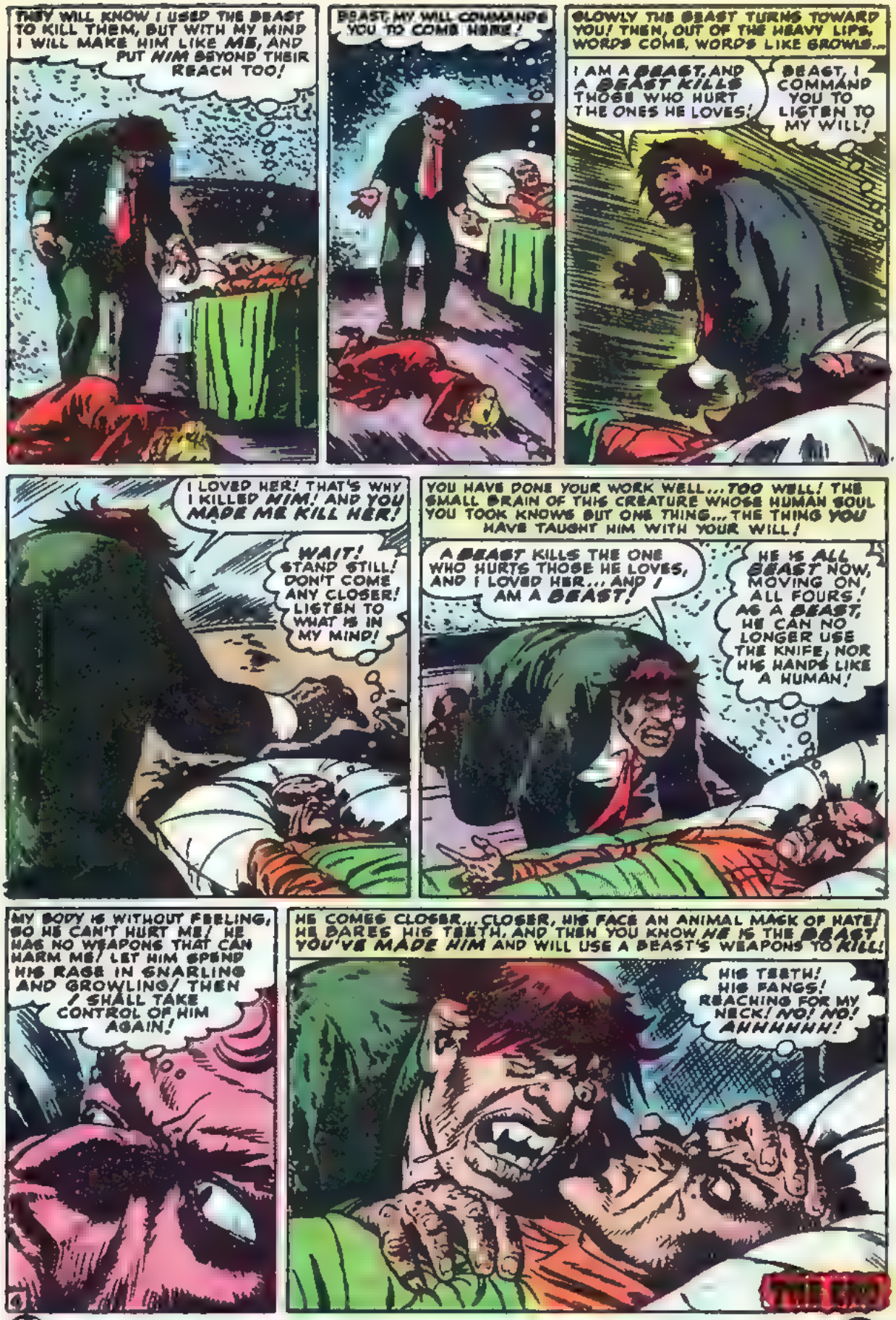



ONLY YOUR BRAIN AND EYES ARE ALIVE... EYES THAT ARE NEVER STILL, AND A BRAIN THAT SCHEMES AND BUBBLES WITH EVIL...
I HEAR THEM DOWNSTAIRS, MY NEPHEW AND HIS WIFE, QUARRELING! THE ONLY REASON THEY STAY TOGETHER IS TO WAIT FOR ME TO DIE!


THEN ALL I HAVE WILL BE THEIRS! MEANWHILE, THEY LEAVE ME TO ROT IN THIS FILTHY ROOM! I HATE ALL THINGS THAT CAN WALK AND TALK AND LIVE... BUT ESPECIALLY, I HATE *THEM!*


YOUR EYES SHUTTLE SIDEWAYS TO THE EMPTY-FACED CREATURE THAT SQUATS NEXT TO YOUR BED...
THEY SUPPLY ME WITH AN ATTENDANT... A WITLESS HULK, A BEAST! SOMEONE TOO STUPID TO ASK FOR PAY!
YOUR EYES MOVE AGAIN, THIS TIME TO THE CLOCK ON THE WALL...
THE DOCTOR IS DUE TO MAKE HIS WEEKLY CALL! IN TWO HOURS HE WILL BE HERE... HE WILL SEE THE RESULTS OF MY REVENGE!
THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHEN THEY SENT THIS BEAST TO CARE FOR ME THAT THEY WERE GIVING ME A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST THEM! MY MIND HAS TAUGHT MY EYES TO MASTER SUCH A WEAK MIND AS HIS, BY HYPNOTIC WILL! HE IS LIKE A PUPPET CONTROLLED BY THE STRINGS OF MY BRAIN!
THIS BEAST OF YOURS SHALL BE YOUR ARMS AND LEGS AND VOICE, AN EXTENSION OF YOUR HATE! YOU HAVE WORKED SO LONG FOR PERFECT CONTROL OVER HIM, AND THIS NIGHT WILL PROVIDE THE CLIMAX OF THAT WORK!
BEAST, LISTEN TO THE VOICELESS WORDS OF MY WILL!
HEAR YOU, MASTER!
YOU HEAR THE TAPPING OF DAINTY HEELS OUTSIDE IN THE HALL! YOUR NEPHEW'S WIFE IS PASSING THE DOOR, COLD AND LOVELY! YOU WATCH AS THE HEAD OF YOUR BEAST SWINGS TO LOOK AT HER .
SHE IS LOVELY, BEAST, ISN'T SHE? BUT SHE'S NOT FOR A BEAST LIKE YOU! SHE IS MY NEPHEW'S WIFE! HE IS NOT GOOD TO HER... HE HURTS HER!
YOU LOVE HER, BEAST, AND MY NEPHEW IS MEAN TO HER! A BEAST KILLS THOSE WHO HARM HIM OR THE ONES HE LOVES! YOU MUST FREE HER, BEAST!
A LOW GROWL COMES FROM THE THROAT OF THIS SUB-HUMAN YOU DOMINATE! THE STAGE IS SET AND YOUR EYES WILL WATCH THE PLAY PRODUCED BY YOU!
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO FREE HER, BEAST! FIRST YOU MUST GET THEM BOTH HERE! YOU WILL CALL THEM... TELL THEM, I AM DYING!
2

COME! COME! THE MASTER DIES!
THEY COME, HURRYING IN ANTICIPATION AND YOUR MIND REACHES OUT TO THE BEAST AGAIN, COMMANDING...
IN YOUR POCKET, BEAST... THE KNIFE WITH THE SPRING BLADE! KILL HIM! YOU ARE ONLY A BEAST AND A BEAST KILLS!
IS HE DEAD YET?
WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME THAT WAY?
IN AN HOUR AND TEN MINUTES THE DOCTOR WILL BE HERE! I'VE TIMED IT NICELY SO THERE WILL BE NO INCONVENIENCE TO ME!
AGAIN YOUR MIND TOUCHES THAT OF THE BEAST'S...
NO! ARRGH!
AEE!!!!!!
EEEE!!!!!
THE WOMAN... HER SCREAMS WILL BE HEARD AND YOU WILL BE CAUGHT! TAKE HER THROAT IN YOUR HANDS AND STOP HER SCREAMING!
HA! EVERYTHING JUST AS I PLANNED! THE DOCTOR WILL KNOW THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE... BUT WHAT CAN HE DO? WHAT CAN EVEN THE LAW DO TO ME? IN THE CONDITION I'M IN, THEY CAN DO NOTHING!
3


THEY WILL KNOW I USED THE BEAST TO KILL THEM, BUT WITH MY MIND I WILL MAKE HIM LIKE ME, AND PUT HIM BEYOND THEIR REACH TOO!
BEAST, MY WILL COMMANDS YOU TO COME HERE!
SLOWLY THE BEAST TURNS TOWARD YOU! THEN, OUT OF THE HEAVY LIPS, WORDS COME, WORDS LIKE GROWLS...
I AM A BEAST, AND A BEAST KILLS THOSE WHO HURT THE ONES HE LOVES!
BEAST, I COMMAND YOU TO LISTEN TO MY WILL!
I LOVED HER! THAT'S WHY I KILLED HIM! AND YOU MADE ME KILL HER!
WAIT! STAND STILL! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! LISTEN TO WHAT IS IN MY MIND!
YOU HAVE DONE YOUR WORK WELL... TOO WELL! THE SMALL BRAIN OF THIS CREATURE WHOSE HUMAN SOUL YOU TOOK KNOWS BUT ONE THING... THE THING YOU HAVE TAUGHT HIM WITH YOUR WILL!
A BEAST KILLS THE ONE WHO HURTS THOSE HE LOVES, AND I LOVED HER... AND I AM A BEAST!
HE IS ALL BEAST NOW, MOVING ON ALL FOURS! AS A BEAST, HE CAN NO LONGER USE THE KNIFE, NOR HIS HANDS LIKE A HUMAN!
MY BODY IS WITHOUT FEELING, SO HE CAN'T HURT ME! HE HAS NO WEAPONS THAT CAN HARM ME! LET HIM SPEND HIS RAGE IN SNARLING AND GROWLING! THEN I SHALL TAKE CONTROL OF HIM AGAIN!
HE COMES CLOSER... CLOSER, HIS FACE AN ANIMAL MASK OF HATE! HE BARES HIS TEETH, AND THEN YOU KNOW HE IS THE BEAST YOU'VE MADE HIM AND WILL USE A BEAST'S WEAPONS TO KILL!
HIS TEETH! HIS FANGS! REACHING FOR MY NECK! NO! NO! AHHHHHH!
THE END

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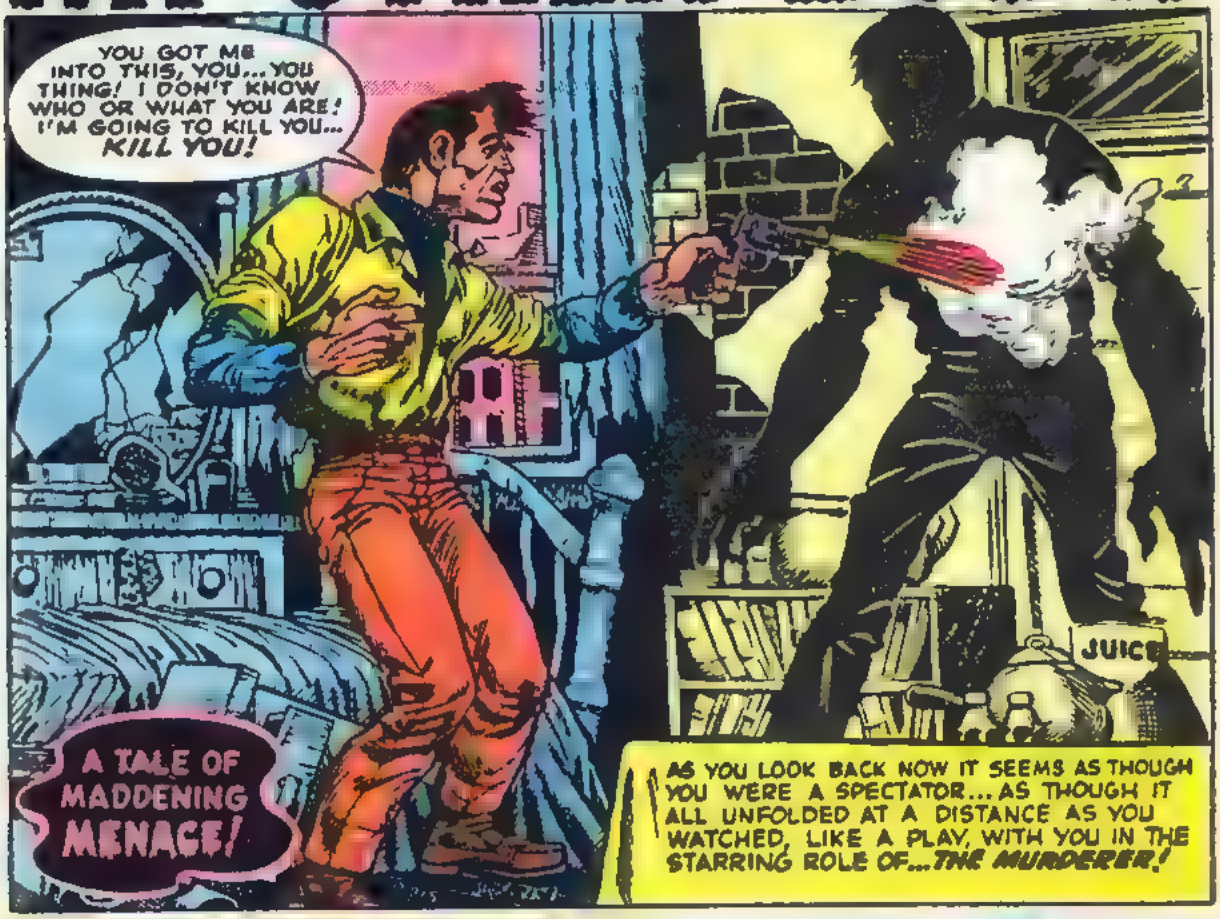
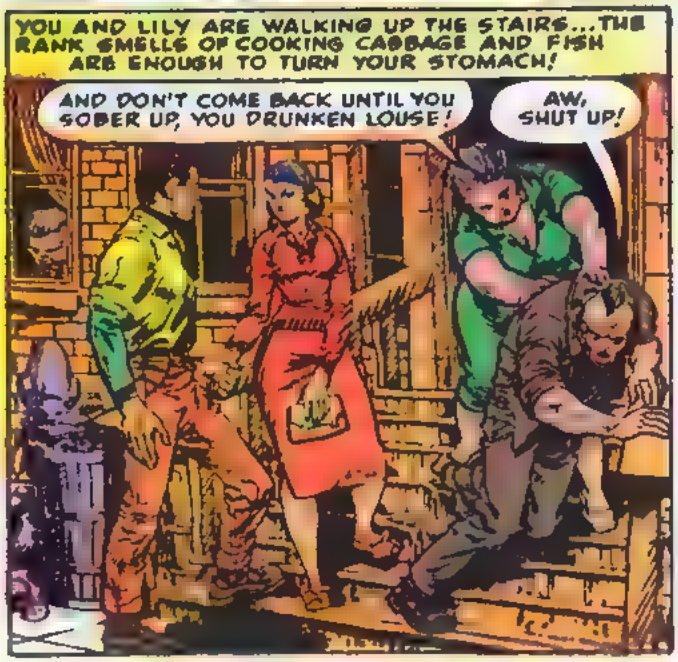
YEP, WE'RE AFRAID THE OLD BOY IS GONNA GET IT IN THE NECK! HERE'S A SHOCKEROO YOU'LL REMEMBER FOR A LONG, LONG WHILE! IF YOU CAN FIGURE HOW THIS WEIRDIE WILL END, YOU RATE AN *E* FOR *EXPERT!*

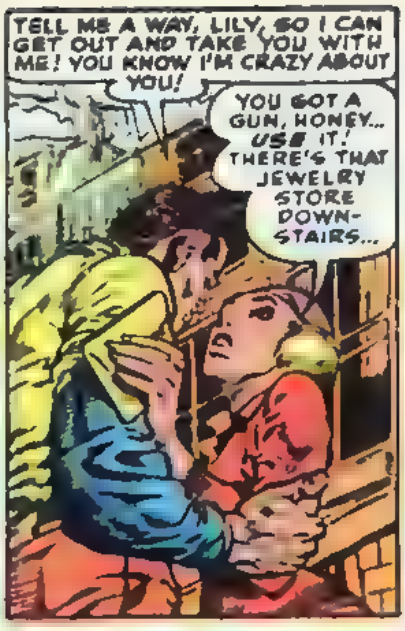
MY OTHER BODY!


YOU GOT ME INTO THIS, YOU... YOU THING! I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU... *KILL YOU!*
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
JUICE
AS YOU LOOK BACK NOW IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU WERE A SPECTATOR... AS THOUGH IT ALL UNFOLDED AT A DISTANCE AS YOU WATCHED, LIKE A PLAY, WITH YOU IN THE STARRING ROLE OF... *THE MURDERER!*

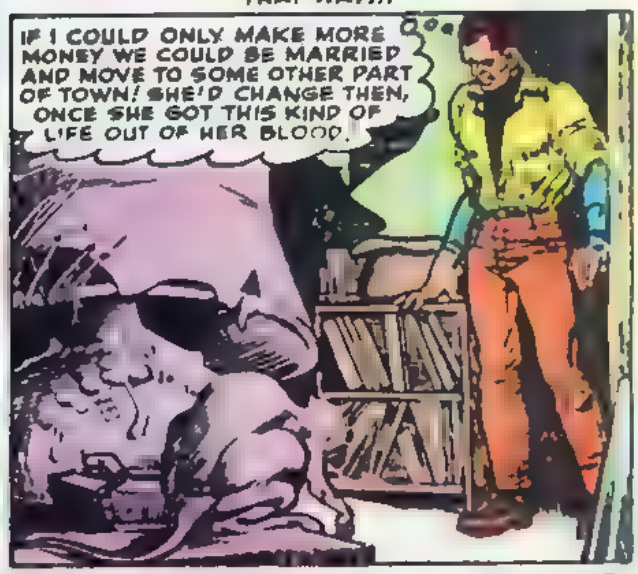

YOU AND LILY ARE WALKING UP THE STAIRS... THE RANK SMELLS OF COOKING CABBAGE AND FISH ARE ENOUGH TO TURN YOUR STOMACH!
AND DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU SOBER UP, YOU DRUNKEN LOUSE!
AW, SHUT UP!

I HATE IT, LILY! THE POVERTY, THE STINKS, THE PEOPLE! IF I DON'T GET OUT SOON, I'LL BE LIKE *THEM*, BROKEN, NOT CARING ANY MORE!
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT... YOU'RE A *MAN!*

IT'S NOT THAT EASY, LILY! IF I COULD ONLY GET A DECENT JOB WITH MORE MONEY! BUT I HAVE NO EDUCATION, NO TALENT, NO NOTHIN'!
THERE'S WAYS OF GETTIN' MONEY, HONEY!

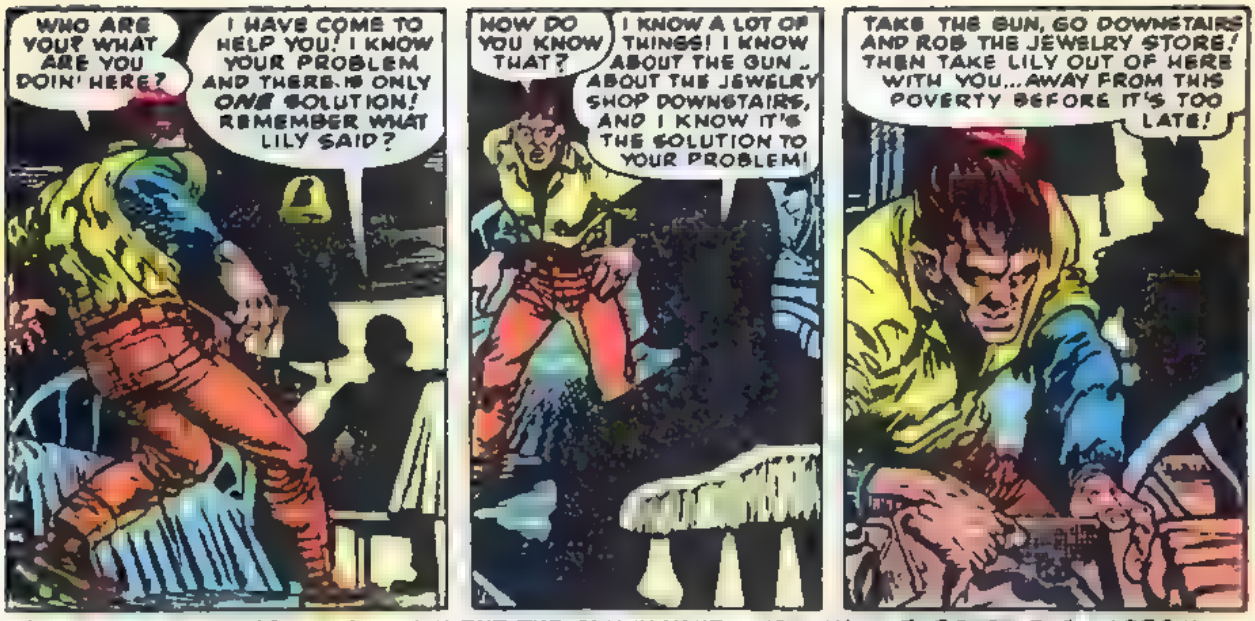

TELL ME A WAY, LILY, SO I CAN GET OUT AND TAKE YOU WITH ME! YOU KNOW I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
YOU GOT A GUN, HONEY... USE IT! THERE'S THAT JEWELRY STORE DOWN-STAIRS...

SHE'S EVEN MORE DESPERATE THAN YOU, TO TALK THAT WAY...


IF I COULD ONLY MAKE MORE MONEY WE COULD BE MARRIED AND MOVE TO SOME OTHER PART OF TOWN! SHE'D CHANGE THEN, ONCE SHE GOT THIS KIND OF LIFE OUT OF HER BLOOD!

YOU FEEL LOW...A LITTLE DIZZY! YOU LIE DOWN ON THE SHABBY DIVAN AS SHADOWS CREEP INTO THE ROOM...

YOU DOZE OFF INTO A FITFUL SLEEP, YOUR MIND TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE REALITY AROUND YOU! WHEN YOU AWAKEN, IT'S DARK...


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?
I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU! I KNOW YOUR PROBLEM AND THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION! REMEMBER WHAT LILY SAID?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
I KNOW A LOT OF THINGS! I KNOW ABOUT THE JEWELRY SHOP DOWNSTAIRS, AND I KNOW IT'S THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM!
TAKE THE GUN, GO DOWNSTAIRS AND ROB THE JEWELRY STORE! THEN TAKE LILY OUT OF HERE WITH YOU... AWAY FROM THIS POVERTY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

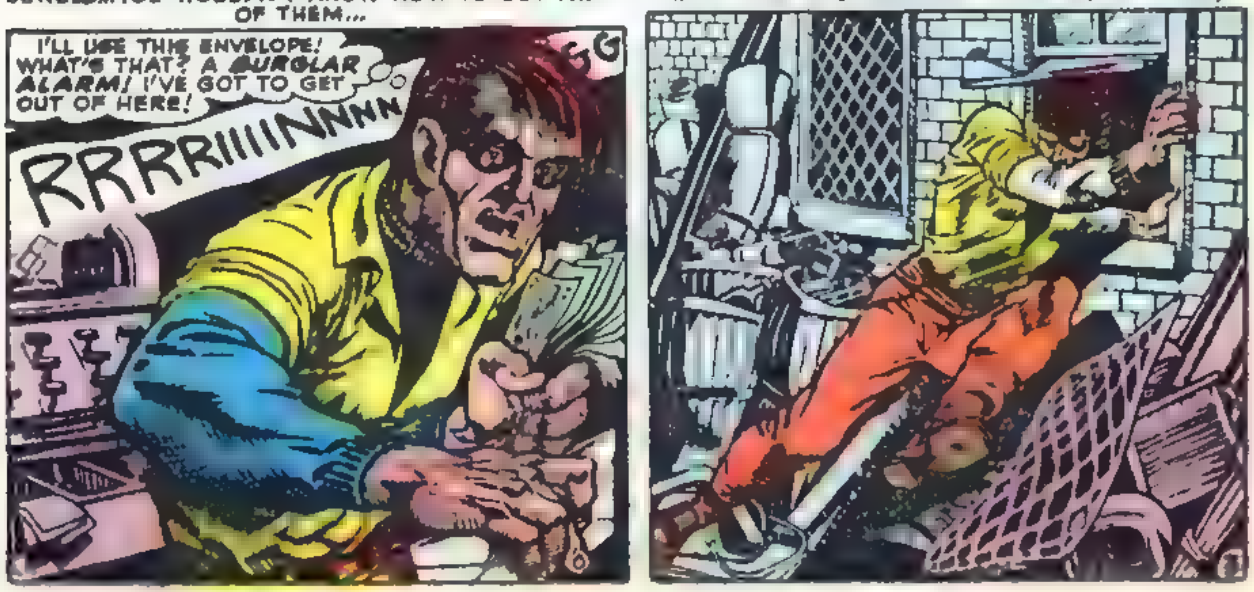
IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'RE IN A TRANCE... LIKE A DREAM... ALMOST AS THOUGH IT'S HAPPENING TO SOMEONE ELSE, NOT YOU! YOU PICK UP THE GUN...

YOU PUT THE GUN IN YOUR POCKET AND WALK DOWN THOSE LONG SMELLY FLIGHTS OF STAIRS...

YOU WALK THROUGH THE NARROW GULLY BETWEEN TENEMENTS INTO THE BACK YARD WHERE THE GARBAGE IS, AND TO THE BACK WINDOW OF THE JEWELRY STORE...

NOW YOU'RE INSIDE! THE CASH DRAWER IS BEHIND THE COUNTER... TAKE THE MONEY, NEVER MIND THE JEWELS... YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET RID OF THEM...

YOU JUMP OUT INTO THE ALLEY... THE RINGING SEEMS TO PIERCE YOUR BRAIN, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!



YOU SLIP INTO THE ENTRANCE OF YOUR TENEMENT! SIRENS! THE PATROL CAR SCREECHES TO A STOP... YOU FLATTEN AGAINST THE WALL AND YOU HEAR...

THEY KNOW WHO DID IT! YOU RUSH UP THE STAIRS, PAST YOUR DOOR... UP ANOTHER FLIGHT...

THEY'LL GET ME FOR SURE... BUT I DID IT FOR LILY! I'LL SLIP THE MONEY UNDER HER DOOR! THEN EVEN IF THEY GET ME, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GET FREE OF ALL THIS!

YOU SLIP THE ENVELOPE UNDER LILY'S DOOR...HER TICKET TO FREEDOM...

YOU RUN DOWN ONE FLIGHT LIKE A MADMAN... INTO YOUR ROOM! THE SOUND OF THE LAW'S TRAMPING FEET MOVE UP... UP... PAST YOUR ROOM...

THE FEET STOP! SILENCE! THEN A DOOR SLAMS OPEN, A WOMAN SCREAMS... LILY! THEN VOICES...

YOU HEAR THE CHUCKLE IN THE SHADOWS... YOU TURN, HALF CRAZY...

RAGE DROPS OVER YOU LIKE A BLANKET, BLINDING YOU TO EVERYTHING BUT THE FIGURE BEFORE YOU! YOU WANT TO HURT, TO MAIM, TO *KILL!*

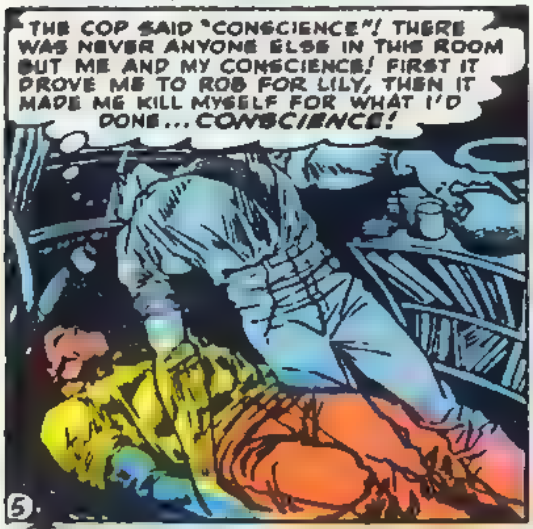
YOU MADE HIM ROB THE STORE, TAKE THE MONEY, THEN WHEN HE SAW WE'D GET HIM, HE SHOT HIMSELF! YOU'RE A THIEF AND A MURDERER AND I'M HOLDING YOU AS AN ACCOMPLICE!
NO!
NO!

LISTEN! IT WASN'T THAT WAY! SHE DIDN'T KNOW! THAT'S *NOT ME* ON THE FLOOR! WHOEVER IT IS, I KILLED HIM! I ROBBED THE STORE! LILY'S INNOCENT!
CONFESS! YOU GAVE HIM THE COME-ON SO HE'D GET THIS DOUGH FOR YOU, THEN HIS CONSCIENCE KILLED HIM... HE COULDN'T TAKE IT!

YOU REACH OUT TO THE COP'S SHOULDER! WHY DON'T THEY LISTEN TO YOU? YOUR HAND GOES THROUGH THE BLUE-CLAD SHOULDER! YOU'RE THERE IN THE ROOM WITH THEM, BUT THEY DON'T SEE YOU...DON'T HEAR YOU!

IT'S NO USE! THEY DON'T HEAR ...DON'T SEE YOU... YOU'RE A GHOST...ONLY THE BODY ON THE FLOOR HAS SUBSTANCE!

THEN SUDDENLY YOU KNOW! LIKE A GREAT LIGHT, YOU KNOW... AND YOU SEEM TO BE DRAWN TO THE BODY ON THE FLOOR... DRAWN AND MERGING WITH IT...


THE COP SAID "CONSCIENCE"! THERE WAS NEVER ANYONE ELSE IN THIS ROOM BUT ME AND MY CONSCIENCE! FIRST IT DROVE ME TO ROB FOR LILY, THEN IT MADE ME KILL MYSELF FOR WHAT I'D DONE... *CONSCIENCE!*

NOW THERE'S NOTHING BUT THE BODY...YOU'RE FADING, MERGING WITH DEATH... EVERYTHING'S FADING, THE POVERTY, THE TROUBLE...AND YOU'RE SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO DARK PEACE...EVERLASTING

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

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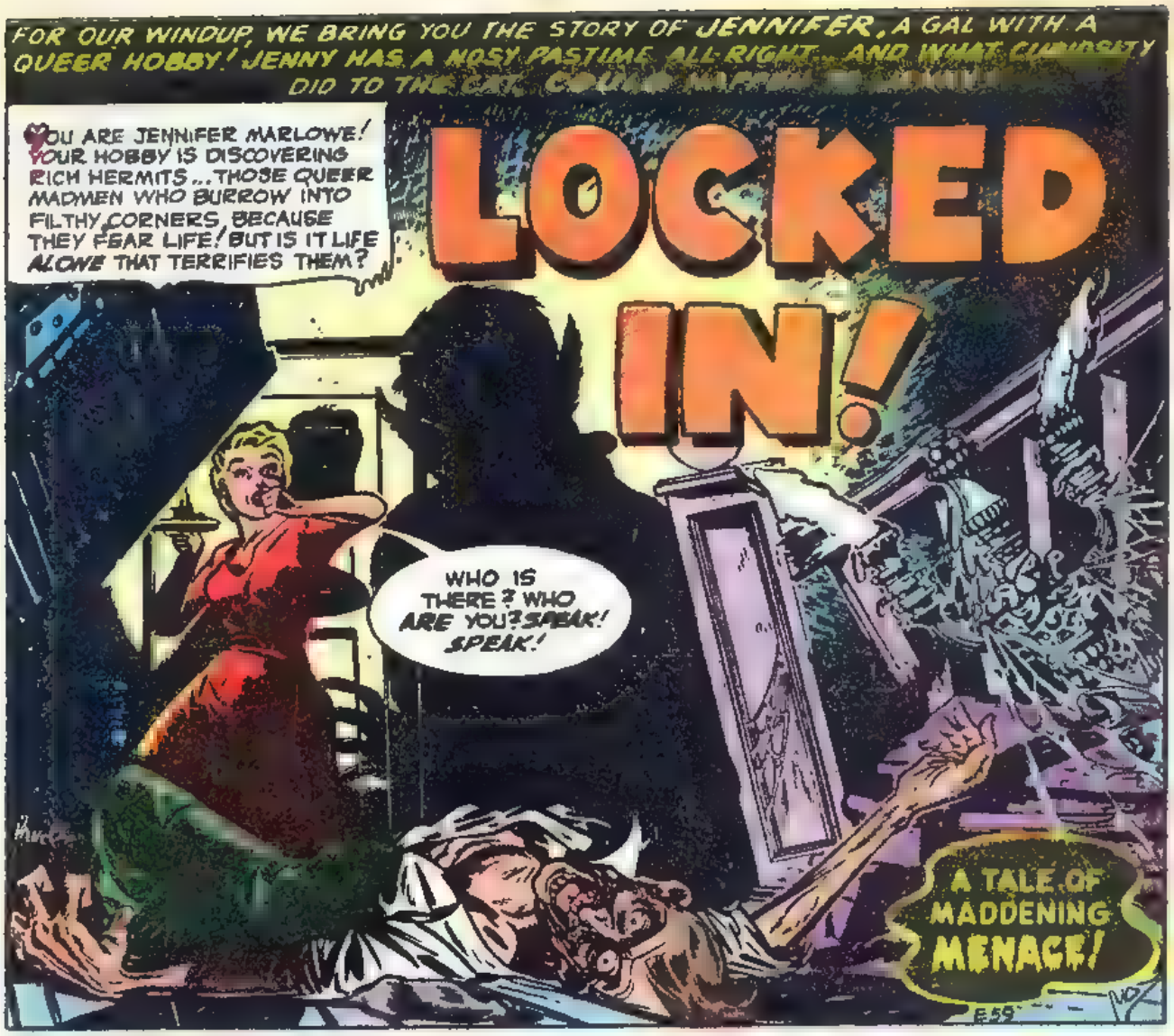
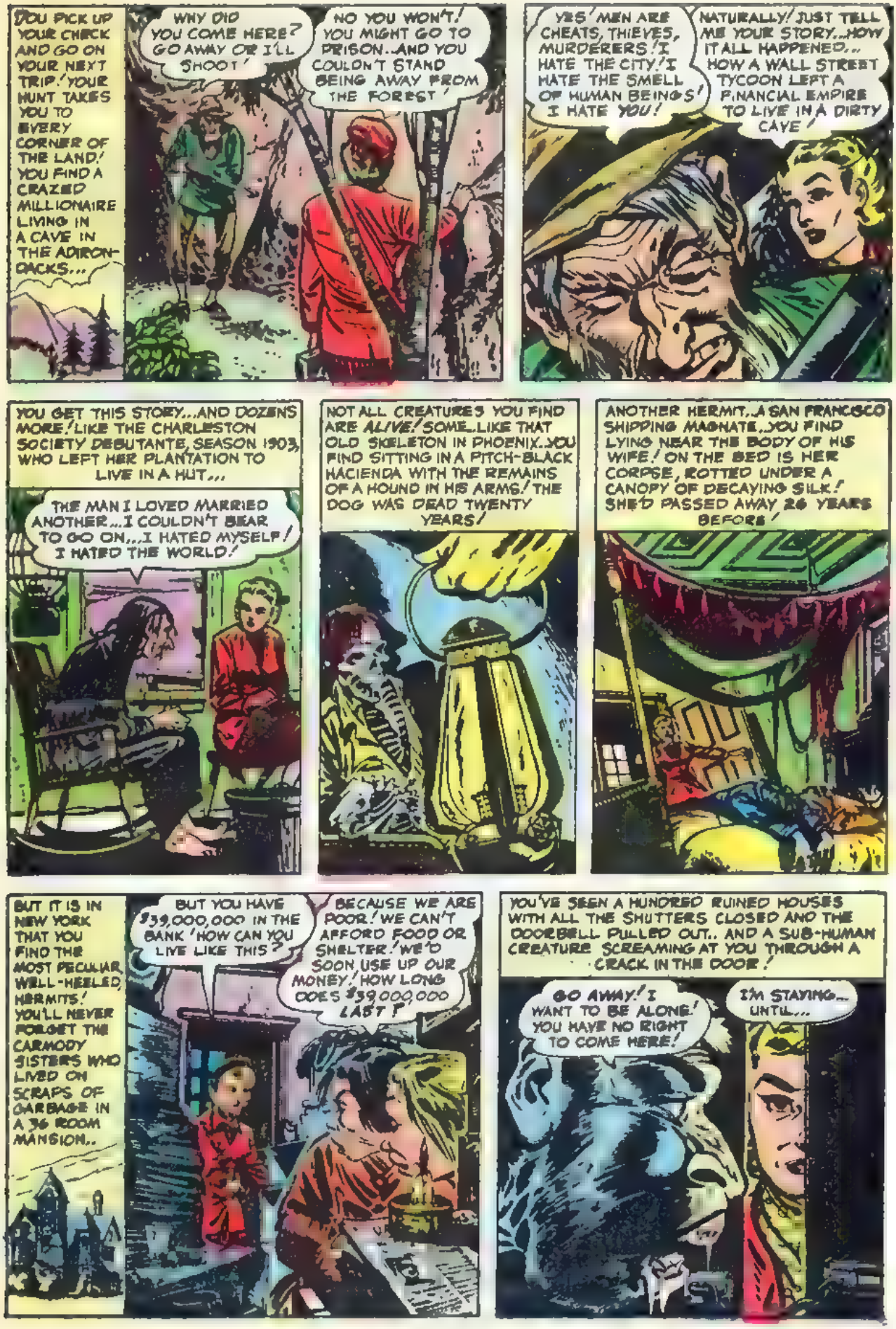

FOR OUR WINDUP, WE BRING YOU THE STORY OF JENNIFER, A GAL WITH A QUEER HOBBY! JENNY HAS A NOSY PASTIME, ALL RIGHT... AND WHAT CURIOSITY DID TO THE CAT, COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!
YOU ARE JENNIFER MARLOWE! YOUR HOBBY IS DISCOVERING RICH HERMITS...THOSE QUEER MADMEN WHO BURROW INTO FILTHY CORNERS, BECAUSE THEY FEAR LIFE! BUT IS IT LIFE ALONE THAT TERRIFIES THEM?
LOCKED IN!
WHO IS THERE? WHO ARE YOU? SPEAK! SPEAK!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
E.59

YOU WRITE FASCINATING ARTICLES ABOUT RECLUSES! EVERY EDITOR, HOWEVER, IS MYSTIFIED ABOUT THE WAY YOU DIG UP THESE CREATURES...
IT'S REALLY SIMPLE, MR. JOHNSON! EVERY TOWN KNOWS OF AT LEAST ONE CRACKPOT WHO'S RETIRED FROM THE WORLD! I SIMPLY ASK AROUND!
HMMM...IT'S REMARKABLE! THESE PEOPLE ARE SCARCELY HUMAN!

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE HUMAN! THEY HATE HUMANITY...THAT'S WHY THEY HIDE! BUT NO MATTER WHERE THEY HIDE, THEY CAN'T ESCAPE ME!
SO I SEE! FROM THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES YOU'VE WRITTEN! WE'LL TAKE YOUR FEATURE, MISS MARLOWE...WITH PICTURES, OF COURSE!


YOU PICK UP YOUR CHECK AND GO ON YOUR NEXT TRIP! YOUR HUNT TAKES YOU TO EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND! YOU FIND A CRAZED MILLIONAIRE LIVING IN A CAVE IN THE ADIRONDACKS...
WHY DID YOU COME HERE? GO AWAY OR I'LL SHOOT!
NO YOU WON'T! YOU MIGHT GO TO PRISON..AND YOU COULDN'T STAND BEING AWAY FROM THE FOREST!
YES! MEN ARE CHEATS, THIEVES, MURDERERS! I HATE THE CITY! I HATE THE SMELL OF HUMAN BEINGS! I HATE YOU!
NATURALLY! JUST TELL ME YOUR STORY...HOW IT ALL HAPPENED... HOW A WALL STREET TYCOON LEFT A FINANCIAL EMPIRE TO LIVE IN A DIRTY CAVE!
YOU GET THIS STORY...AND DOZENS MORE! LIKE THE CHARLESTON SOCIETY DEBUTANTE, SEASON 1903, WHO LEFT HER PLANTATION TO LIVE IN A HUT...
THE MAN I LOVED MARRIED ANOTHER...I COULDN'T BEAR TO GO ON...I HATED MYSELF! I HATED THE WORLD!
NOT ALL CREATURES YOU FIND ARE ALIVE! SOME..LIKE THAT OLD SKELETON IN PHOENIX..YOU FIND SITTING IN A PITCH-BLACK HACIENDA WITH THE REMAINS OF A HOUND IN HIS ARMS! THE DOG WAS DEAD TWENTY YEARS!
ANOTHER HERMIT..A SAN FRANCISCO SHIPPING MAGNATE..YOU FIND LYING NEAR THE BODY OF HIS WIFE! ON THE BED IS HER CORPSE, ROTTED UNDER A CANOPY OF DECAYING SILK! SHE'D PASSED AWAY 26 YEARS BEFORE!
BUT IT IS IN NEW YORK THAT YOU FIND THE MOST PECULIAR, WELL-HEELED, HERMITS! YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THE CARMODY SISTERS WHO LIVED ON SCRAPS OF GARBAGE IN A 36 ROOM MANSION..
BUT YOU HAVE $39,000,000 IN THE BANK! HOW CAN YOU LIVE LIKE THIS?
BECAUSE WE ARE POOR! WE CAN'T AFFORD FOOD OR SHELTER! WE'D SOON USE UP OUR MONEY! HOW LONG DOES $39,000,000 LAST?
YOU'VE SEEN A HUNDRED RUINED HOUSES WITH ALL THE SHUTTERS CLOSED AND THE DOORBELL PULLED OUT.. AND A SUB-HUMAN CREATURE SCREAMING AT YOU THROUGH A CRACK IN THE DOOR!
GO AWAY! I WANT TO BE ALONE! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COME HERE!
I'M STAYING... UNTIL...

YOU TRACK THESE ECCENTRICS DOWN IN THEIR FILTHY HIDEOUTS! ONE AND ALL TELL YOU A SIMILAR STORY...

I HATE PEOPLE! I HAD TO GET AWAY.. TO HIDE TO LIVE BY MYSELF! THAT'S WHY I BURIED MYSELF HERE!

YES..AFTER MANY YEARS OF SNOOPING, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED AS A LEADING AUTHORITY ON HERMITS! YOU EVEN PUBLISH A BOOK ON THE SUBJECT! YOU LECTURE TO BOOK CLUBS...

THESE HERMITS WITH MONEY..DON'T THEY REALIZE HOW MUCH FUN THEY MIGHT HAVE *SPENDING* IT?

THEY'RE *NOT NORMAL* PEOPLE! THEY'RE CRACKPOTS.. HAUNTED BY DOUBTS, FEARS, MEMORIES! EACH ONE WITHDRAWS...BURIES HIMSELF... FOR SOME *SPECIAL* REASON!

SHOULDN'T SOME OF THEM BE PUT IN LUNATIC ASYLUMS?

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE *WE'RE* THE CRAZY ONES! THEY HAVE THE *MONEY*, REMEMBER!

YOU GO ON...TO THE NEXT CAGE...TO THE NEXT HERMIT, HOPING TO FIND ONE STORY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS...

WELL, MA'AM, IF IT'S QUEER FOLKS YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR, THE WHOLE TOWN TALKS ABOUT A FELLER WHO'S BEEN LIVIN' IN THE OLD BLAKE HOUSE FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS!

REALLY? HAS ANYBODY *SEEN* HIM?

NOPE ...HE NEVER GOES OUT! HE GETS HIS GROCERIES DELIVERED THROUGH A FLAP IN THE DOOR! SOMETIMES YOU CAN SEE HIM LOOKIN' THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE SHUTTERS, LIKE HE WAS IN A PRISON!

HMM..SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCELLENT PROSPECT!

YOU AIN'T THINKIN' OF GOIN' *INSIDE* THAT HAUNTED HOUSE? SOME PEOPLE THINK THIS FELLER IS A GHOST!

IF HE'S BEEN EATING STEADILY FOR TWENTY YEARS AND PAYS CASH WITHOUT ANY VISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT, HE'S MADE OF *FLESH AND BLOOD!*

I MUST TAKE THIS CHARACTER BY SURPRISE! *SHOCK* IS HALF THE BATTLE!

HMMM..THE SMELL IS STRONG! AS IF A WILD ANIMAL WERE CAGED INSIDE! I'M NOT SURPRISED! WHAT IS A HUMAN BEING BUT A TWO-LEGGED ANIMAL?
THIS FELLOW DIDN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE.. (GASP!) S..SOMEBODY'S STANDING IN THE DOORWAY!
WHO'S THERE? WHO'S IN MY HOUSE?
NO! NO! (GASP!) IT COULDN'T BE! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS..TWENTY LONG, AGONIZING YEARS! IT CAN'T BE! I CAN'T HAVE FOUND YOU AT LAST!
J..JENNIFER!
SO YOU REMEMBER ME! YES! WE STAGED A PRETTY LITTLE MASSACRE THAT NIGHT IN AUGUST, 1933! THE WHOLE CRANDELL FAMILY! MR. AND MRS. CRANDELL...THEIR RICH UNCLES AND AUNTS...
W..WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE? WHAT D..DO YOU WANT?
WE STOLE A MILLION DOLLARS THAT NIGHT! WE GOT AWAY SCOT-FREE, BILL!
BUT I, NEVER SAW THE MONEY! WHY? BECAUSE YOU TOOK A RUN-OUT POWDER, BILL..YOU..MY OWN HUSBAND..DOUBLE-CROSSED ME! YOU GRABBED THE DOUGH AND RAN, BILL!
BUT THE MONEY IS STILL HERE, JENNIFER! HERE... UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS! I..I DIDN'T USE MORE THAN A FEW DOLLARS OF IT!
WELL, I'M GLAD TO KNOW, AFTER LOOKING FOR YOU FOR TWENTY YEARS, IT'S STILL SAFE! I HAD A HUNCH YOU HOLED UP SOMEWHERE! I MADE HUNDREDS OF INQUIRIES, BILL! YOU'D DISAPPEARED!
JENNIFER, LISTEN! (GASP!) LET ME EXPLAIN!

EXPLAIN WHAT? THAT YOU WANTED ALL THE MONEY FOR YOURSELF? IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH, BILL! EVERYBODY THOUGHT MY HOBBY WAS LOOKING FOR RICH HERMITS! YOU WERE MY HOBBY, BILL! FINDING YOU!
JENNIFER! (GASP!) P... PUT THAT GUN AWAY!
NOT TILL I SEE YOU DEAD! NOT TILL THAT MONEY GOES BACK TO ME! PEOPLE WON'T ASK QUESTIONS! THEY THINK YOU'RE A GHOST, ANYWAY!
Y..YOU MURDERIN' WILDCAT! I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME!
NO, BILL! IT'S NOT IN THE CARDS, IT'S NICE THAT YOU HOLED UP HERE LIKE A RAT! WHAT A TIME I'LL HAVE SPENDING THAT MONEY!
ARRRGGH!
BA
BLP
THE FOOL! HE COULD HAVE LEFT ANYTIME! BUT HE NEVER DID HAVE ANY BRAINS OR GUTS! I HAD TO DO ALL THE KILLING, HE COULDN'T LIFT HIS HAND TO DO IT!
BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE EITHER, MISS MARLOWE!
EEE!!!!!
SHOOT, MISS MARLOWE! YOU'LL FIND BULLETS AS USELESS AS BILL DID! TRY TO REACH THE DOORS OR WINDOWS! WE'LL DO TO YOU WHAT YOU DID TO US!
THE CRANDELLS! EEE!!!!!
YOU'RE LOOKING AT GHOSTS, MISS MARLOWE! WE TRAILED BILL HERE! HE WENT INTO TEMPORARY HIDING TWENTY YEARS AGO! BUT HE NEVER LEFT! WE NEVER LET HIM!
WE NEVER SLEEP, MISS MARLOWE! OUR EYES NEVER LEAVE YOU! WE FOLLOW YOU EVERYWHERE! TRY TO ESCAPE AND WE'LL KILL YOU! NOW DO YOU SEE WHY BILL NEVER LEFT THIS HOUSE?
YOU ARE JENNIFER MARLOWE, HUNTER OF HERMITS! YOU KNOW MANY REASONS WHY MEN OR WOMEN GASP THEIR LIVES OUT IN A RAT'S HOLE, NEVER DARING TO LEAVE IT! ADD YOUR REASON TO THEIRS, JENNIFER! YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE YOUR RAT HOLE, EITHER.. EVER!
YOU'RE IN FOR A MENACING GOOD TIME, WHEN YOU PICK UP THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF MENACE AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND! DON'T MISS IT! WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU!

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LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. MCC-4
Littleton, New Hampshire

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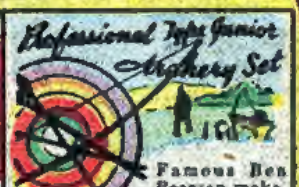

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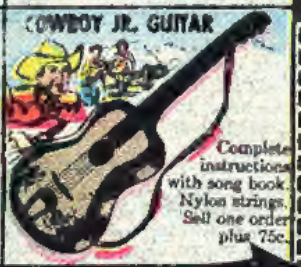

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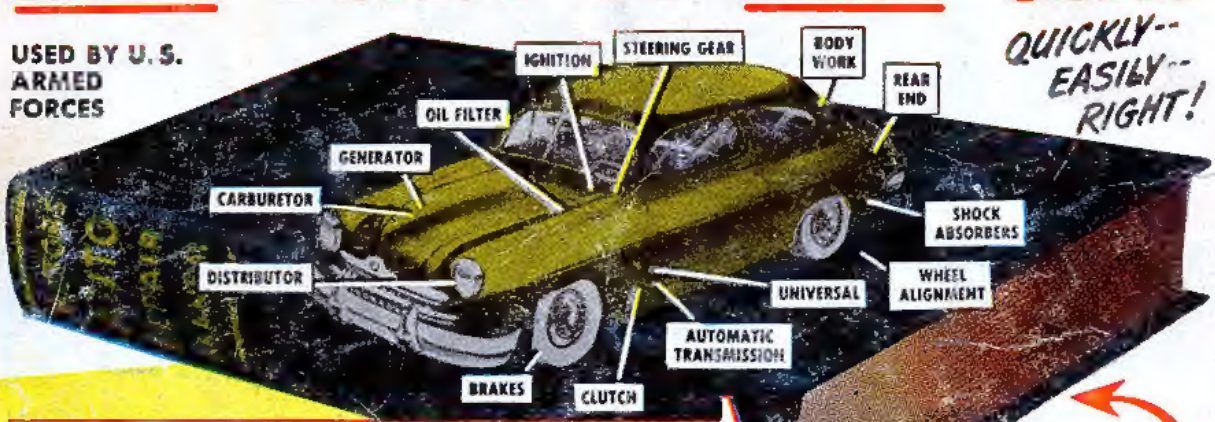

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